

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1784.

VIENNA, (Germany) October 4.

WE have just had a singular instance of filial ingratitude, which is at present the common topic of conversation. A gentleman in Moravia, who was intrusted with the direction of a public bank, had a son a lieutenant in the Imperial service, who, making an improper use of his father's easy temper and extraordinary good nature, extorted from him several sums of money for the purpose of gratifying his evil pursuits. One day coming to his father with the utmost anxiety, he asked him for six hundred florins (about seventy pounds sterling) urging, that unless his demand was immediately complied with, he was a ruined man, and that his honour and life were both at stake. The father answered, it was not in his power to assist him at that time, unless he would be so imprudent as to take the cash he required out of the bank. Notwithstanding which the son renewed his lamentations, and pressed the old man so close, that he condescended to give him the cash he wanted, taking it out of the bank, observing to him at the same time, that this conduct would undoubtedly prove not only his own destruction, but also that of his poor father. The emperor, then passing accidentally through the town where this affair happened, the lieutenant throwing himself at the feet of his majesty, charged his father with having embezzled part of the money belonging to the Imperial treasury. Upon which the emperor sent for the father, who informed him of the whole transaction, and that he had only feigned to take the money out of the bank, to prevent his son from continuing his pecuniary solicitations; and proved, to the satisfaction of his sovereign, that he had immediately replaced the money he had taken. The emperor, upon this, ordered the lieutenant to be turned out of his regiment with the highest note of infamy, and then to be confined for ten years in a citadel; and his Imperial majesty, to shew his magnanimous equity, has since increased the appointment of the father.

PARIS, Oct. 3. The academy of sciences, arts and belles lettres, of Châlons sur Marne, in its sitting of the 25th of last month, has adjudged the premium of one hundred dollars to a person unknown, who has sent the best memoirs on this subject—What are the best means of softening and bettering in France the condition of day labourers, small cultivators, poor drudges, as well as that of their wives and children? That of ninety-four dollars was adjudged to Mr. Du Mas, a lawyer, in the bailiwick of Lons le Saunier, the subject was, "what are the best means of perfecting in France the education of women?"

The same academy proposes for the premium of the present year the following subjects, viz. 1. What are the best means of encouraging marriages in France, without infringing the respect due to religion and virtue? This premium will be ninety-four dollars. 2. What are the best means of animating and encouraging commerce, in the province of Champagne, and more especially in the city of Châlons? This reward will be fifty guineas. 3. What are the best means of perfecting in France the constitutions of the colleges, as well as the education therein given? This reward will be fifty guineas also.

The academy of sciences, inscriptions and belles lettres, of Toulouse (the capital of Languedoc) offers for the ensuing year the following subjects for public discussion, as well as the different rewards thereunto annexed: 1. Six hundred and fifty dollars to the person who shall send the academy the best memoir on the method of bringing water into the city, either from the scattered springs on the city grounds, or from the river which washes its walls, in a quantity sufficient for the culinary purpose, for extinguishing fires, and for sprinkling the streets, squares and public walks. 2. Ninety-four dollars to the person who shall assign the best means of constructing a framed bridge, of one single arch, 24 feet above the water, over a river 450 feet wide, the shores of which are 25 feet above its level. 3. A reward of one hundred and ninety dollars to the memoir which shall best demonstrate what are the effects of the air, and of the airiform fluids introduced and produced in human bodies, relatively to animal economy. 4. A reward of ninety-five dollars to the memoir which shall best trace the revolutions which the commerce of Toulouse has undergone, the means of extending it, those of removing the obstacles whether moral or physical, if any there be, which may prevent its progress and activity. The royal society of medicine has crowned the memoir of Mr. Goquelin, on this subject—to determine by exact observations whether

the scurvy is contagious. The same academy has conferred six golden medals on the authors of six excellent memoirs on the treatment of epidemics. The other three rewards they had offered, on the subject of medical topography, have been given to Messieurs Decaster, surgeon of the regiment of Berry, to Mr. Didelot, physician of Remiremont, and to Mr. Darlac.

The same society offers for their rewards of the ensuing year the following subjects: 1. To determine by chymical analysis what is the nature of the antiscorbutic remedies, extracted from the species of crucifers, the cochlearia, the cresses, and the raisin. 2. A reward of twenty-five guineas, founded by the king, on the following subject—what are the advantages and dangers of bark, in the different remitting fevers? As usual the society will distribute at the first annual sitting the several premiums of encouragement which it has to dispose of: To the best memoir on the medical constitution of the seasons, and the epidemical diseases of the kingdom.

After the distribution of all those rewards was finished, an excellent memoir of Mr. Mauduit was read, entitled new means of administering medical electricity, another of Mr. Laffone, entitled a new and cheap method of preparing the extract of opium, by digestion, compared with that obtained by a six months digestion, and their effects compared.

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 22. Yesterday morning, about half past eleven o'clock, an explosion like the firing of cannon was heard in our port, and some moments after a thick smoke, attended with flames, was seen to issue from the Rhyndland, captain Mulder. In less than an hour the ship appeared on fire from stem to stern, without our being able to learn how the accident happened. The flames having then communicated to the cable by which the vessel was tied, she became the sport of the waves, and the tide of flood being at that time in its greatest force, it carried her into the inner part of the harbour, which obliged several vessels that were there to cut their fastenings, to escape this inflamed mass. At the fall of the tide the vessel, which had been carried on shore, remained dry, and at the departure of the post continued burning. Notwithstanding the activity exerted to extinguish the flames, they were not able to succeed, and therefore were obliged to confine their endeavours to cut off all communication between her and the other vessels, which was effected by the assistance of a number of boats. Some persons perished on this occasion.

Oct. 23. The loss of the Rhyndland is now thus to be accounted for:—The vessel being to be put out of commission, all the heavy artillery had been taken out of her, and afterwards the powder. The crew had been ordered to sweep away the powder that should be shed, and the captain had recommended to them to be particularly careful. He was writing in his cabin, when the vessel received a shock, which overturned the table that stood before him. He got out of the cabin, but found the ship all in flames. It is thought that fifty persons perished on this occasion. Some say, that half the crew, which consisted of 170 men, are lost. The superior officers, it is believed, are all saved.

LONDON, September 9.

Extract of a letter from Bristol, August 15.

"Yesterday we were all in confusion, every one hurrying towards the drawbridge, in order to satisfy their curiosity by viewing one of the most extraordinary animals we ever heard of; it came in with the tide, and was not perceived till in attempting to get through the bridge it stuck so fast that it could neither move backwards nor forwards. After a great deal of trouble it was secured, and brought on shore, but not before it tore a man's leg in the fleshy part very dangerously. The head of it resembles that of an ox without horns; there are two fore legs with cloven feet, and a large tuft of hair in the middle of its forehead; the teeth are about two inches and a half long, delicately white, and very acute; from the shoulders it gradually increases till you come to the tail, which is uncommonly large; it has two large fins under the extreme part of its belly. Some people say it is a sea-calf, others assert that it came from the Irish seas, and therefore, from the size of it, it must be a bull."

Oct. 4. A German naturalist, a Mr. Hedwig, has made what is esteemed a very important discovery in natural history, and by the series of experiments proves what Linnæus, &c. looked for in vain, the propagation of mosses, which is now found to be, according to the sexual system, by seed.

A few days ago as the prince was riding in the neighbourhood of W—r, his horse flung a shoe. He alighted near the door of a cottage, where he saw a lad and a girl talking together, and sent his servant away with the horse. The girl was pretty, and attracted his notice; she dropt a curtsey as he came towards her, "Well my pretty maid, what fust things does Colin say to you this fine morning?" She smiled, and the man coloured. "When is the happy day to be?" "I don't know Sir," said the girl. "Father says we want money, and please your honour," said the lad. "How much, (asked the prince) would satisfy him?" "We ha' got ten pounds to buy things with, but we want as much more for expences, and I owe a little money." The prince was charmed with the girl's beauty and modesty, and after looking at her some time took her by the hand and said, "If you'll make this good lad happy, I'll give you ten pounds, but I'll have a kiss into the bargain;" and putting his hand into his pocket, he took out ten guineas, and received thanks for it from the lips of the girl herself.

Oct. 20. That very important object, for which our society of arts, &c. so wisely offered a premium, the cultivation of nutmegs in the West-Indies, will now in all probability soon be accomplished; the French king's gardener at the isle of Bourbon has written an express paper to Monsieur de Sartine, in which he has ascertained the fructification of the nutmeg-tree, and actually raised in the garden that he has the care of, thirty-eight male aromatic nutmeg-trees, and eight female trees, from the nuts got in two importations from the Moluccas. [May not this idea, under due intendance, be adopted in the soil of some of the American states?]

Oct. 21. The forgeries on the bank have been imputed to an American; how truly, we pretend not to determine. But assuming this for a fact, should we not recollect that the Congress currency (the bank-paper of America for the time being) was forged by one of our own people in immense quantities. If an American therefore has actually been concerned in the forgery, he has made a severe return, and paid the English in their own coin.

OLD BAILEY INTELLIGENCE.

Dennis Shebane was indicted last week at the Old Bailey, for a street robbery on Alex Shaw.

The prosecutor, a sailor, deposed, that on the 14th of this month, between the hours of twelve and one in the morning, he (in company with James Scott, a witness) was suddenly knocked down, and robbed of his watch, by the prisoner, in Plough-Court, Ratcliff Highway.

James Scott, the witness, a Scotch sailor, also gave a very humorous account, in a very grave way, of the robbery. Being a sailor, he said that the prisoner bore down upon the prosecutor, and gave him a broadside, in Plough-Court, and then steered off. That the prosecutor piped all hands when he was laid keel upwards. That the prisoner ran right before the wind, to whom he gave chase; but that the prisoner tacked to the starboard, and then he (the witness) hauled his wind. That another frigate coming up, ran along side of the prisoner, on whom he poured his whole broadside, and made him surrender; but that he (Scott) was entitled to his prize-money, never having lost sight of the prisoner, during the chase.

Scott's evidence created a deal of diversion in court; not could the judges refrain their risible faculties on the terra-marine description. As he was confirmed by another witness, in a more intelligible dialect, but who still added, the prosecutor was half seas over, the prisoner was convicted, but recommended to mercy by the jury.

Nov. 3. Advice from Hamburg, by the last mail, declare, that a bank on a new plan was erecting at Berlin. The different effects of plenty and scarcity of money have not escaped the penetrating genius of the sovereign of Prussia. Money is not so plentiful in his dominions, as to make it necessary to withdraw a quantity by heaping up treasure. This monarch indeed always retains in his treasury six or seven millions sterling for answering unforeseen demands; but being sensible that the withdrawing from circulation any large sum would be prejudicial to commerce, every farthing saved from the necessary expence of government is laid out upon buildings, upon operas; in short, upon any thing rather than cramp circulation. In his Prussian majesty's metropolis, therefore, a bank established for lending money must promote industry and manufactures in an eminent degree.

There are (says a correspondent) I believe, many people who frequently read news-papers, without attending to the importance of the word NEWS, or the idea it ought to furnish us with. In the first place, as news comes from all quarters of the terraqueous globe, so the very word itself clearly points out to us, viz. N. north, E. east, W. west, S. south; so that, I believe, no language in the world can furnish us with